

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 APRIL 1982

Assassination Aftermath

"Our cumulative intelligence indicates that the PLO was responsible" for the assassination of Israeli diplomat Ya'akov Bar-Simantov, an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman stated, according to the Jerusalem POST. Senior spokesmen in both the Foreign Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office denied a Jerusalem radio report claiming government circles had concluded that neonazis murdered Bar-Simantov. In a letter to the UN Security Council, Israel charged the PLO with responsibility and said it will hold the instigators, perpetrators and abettors of the crime answerable for their deeds, the Jerusalem POST added.

After a 2-hour meeting with Prime Minister Menahem Begin, opposition leader Shim'on Peres said over Jerusalem radio that the murder violates the cease-fire but added that no automatic conclusions should be drawn from his statement. Earlier Begin had told Agudat Yisra'el leaders that the murder of the diplomat and a Janin border policeman are serious matters which cannot go unnoticed and warned that the terrorists will not be allowed to continue their acts, DAVAR reported.

Sa'id Sayil, Fatah Central Committee member and joint forces central operations chief, affirmed that Bar-Simantov was killed by Israeli intelligence to create an excuse for aggression against the PLO, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported. He added that PLO forces are ready to face any Zionist aggression, the radio said.

Israel

The Golan Druze strike is now about 80 percent effective and pro-Syrian Druze are collecting Israeli identification cards to return them to the Interior Ministry, Jerusalem radio reported. Scores of Israeli Druze notables have openly thrown their support behind their Golan brothers' struggle against application of Israeli law to the heights, according to the radio.

Lebanon

Syria has reinforced its forces in Al-Biqa' with new SAM's and Syrian forces have transported artillery and other military equipment from the Al-Biqa' plain to impregnable positions in the mountains, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

PLO

'Arafat Speech -- The Palestinian people are paying a high price for what happened at the recent Fes summit, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat said at a meeting in Kuwait reported by AL-QABAS on 5 April. The Palestinian revolution is facing not only the Zionist enemy but also the United States, whose fleets are engulfing the Arab region. Reiterating his call for swords, not Arab prayers, to confront the joint U.S.-Zionist defiance, 'Arafat reaffirmed that Palestine will be recovered not through resolutions but through the gun. He also stated that the PLO has contacts within Egypt's Armed Forces and with patriotic forces in the Egyptian Army and people.

Meeting Denial -- On 5 April Tehran radio reported a 2-hour meeting in Kuwait between 'Arafat and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. An official PLO source denied that such a meeting occurred. KUNA reported.

Diplomatic Status -- The Sri Lankan Government has decided to grant the PLO full diplomatic status, according to Voice of Palestine.

Nonaligned Meeting in Kuwait

Egyptian Proposal -- Egyptian delegation head 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid proposed a nonaligned initiative based on mutual and simultaneous recognition between the "Palestinian people" and Israel, in remarks at the Nonaligned Coordination Bureau meeting in Kuwait reported by MENA. 'Abd al-Majid explained that such recognition would require Israel to recognize Palestinian rights to return or be compensated, to sovereignty over land, wealth and resources, to self-determination without foreign interference, to establishment of an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip on the basis of the 1967 borders, to sovereignty in Jerusalem, and to removal of Israeli settlements and abolition of any other Israeli measures to change the geographic or legal status of the occupied territories. In return, contemporary international circumstances require that Israel's right to exist within internationally recognized and secure borders also be recognized within a mutual framework, 'Abd al-Majid added. Egypt will continue its work to regain the Palestinians' rights in practice, not merely to emphasize them in theory, and the proposed initiative will begin to break the stalemate about to engulf the Palestinian issue, Egypt's chief delegate asserted.

PLO Rejection -- The PLO totally rejects the Egyptian proposal, PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi responded in a statement published in the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM cited by KUNA.

Iran-Iraq Antagonism, Mediation -- Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati walked out of the conference hall when UN General Assembly President 'Ismat Kittani, who is an Iraqi, began to speak, KUNA reported. In a message to the conference, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn expressed regret that some states are purchasing arms from the Zionist entity, according to INA.

After separate meetings with the Iraqi and Iranian foreign ministers, Islamic Conference Secretary General Habib Chatti announced that both countries have agreed that the Islamic subcommittee headed by Guinea President Ahmed Sekou Toure will visit their capitals later this month in an effort to end the conflict, INA reported.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- Eighty percent of the Iraqi Navy has been destroyed and the remainder does not dare to engage in battle, Commander of the Iranian Navy Admiral Bahram 'Afzali stated, according to IRNA and Tehran radio's Arabic service.

An Iraqi military spokesman denied Iranian claims that Iraqi aircraft raided Dezful on 4 April, INA reported.

King Husayn Trip -- Heading a delegation which included the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, King Husayn returned to Amman from a 2-day tour of Saudi Arabia and Qatar, Amman television reported. During the Saudi-Jordanian talks the two sides reviewed the military and political situation on the Iraqi-Iranian front and stressed the need for building a unified stand, according to Amman PETRA-JNA. King Husayn and the amir of Qatar also asserted the importance of building a joint Arab stand to face the aggressive designs aimed against the region, Amman television noted.

Egypt

The higher state security prosecution has begun investigating 140 extremist religious organization members who were arrested last week, AL-AHRAM reported on 5 April. The defendants belong to two organizations which seek to impose Islamic law by force and to incite the masses, the paper added.



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ENVOY TO CUBA SPEAKS ON REVOLUTION'S GAINS

FLO61716 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Text] Despite the aggressions of the Yankee imperialists and their puppets, the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan is marching forward and attains successes with the revolution, (Abdul Habib Wiri), charge d'affaires of that country in Cuba, has told the 24 in 15 program in an exclusive interview on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the April Revolution.

[Begin recording -- in English fading into Spanish translation] Ronald Reagan proclaimed a day as the day of Afghanistan, but it turned out to be a failure for his policy. On that day, 200,000 persons in Kabul, our capital, demonstrated in front of the U.S. Embassy to tell Reagan that they will not permit his interference in our internal affairs. [end recording]

Afghanistan's charge d'affaires in Cuba began by recounting how the Afghan people used to live prior to the triumph of the April 1978 Revolution. At the time, our people were living under feudal production conditions. Nearly 2.5 million persons were living as nomads and 90 percent did not know how to read and write. He noted that there were no schools or hospitals, and the people were enduring the scourge of a cruel dictatorship.

Following the triumph of the revolution in Afghanistan, the diplomat stated, the agrarian reform was carried out, the peasants were given the land at no cost and now the government is making every effort to offer them what they require in their work, particularly to solve the serious problem of irrigation.

As another success of the revolution, he referred to the mobilization of the masses, their integration in unions, the creation of a women's organization and another for the youth, under the leadership of the party. In addition, he said: One of the fundamental gains in these 4 years is the enacting of a provisional constitution. Another one is the creation of the Fatherland Front, whose essential task is to unite all democratic forces in the country.

Likewise, the charge d'affaires pointed out that there have been some successes in the economic field, such as increases in workers' wages, especially of the poorest. Following the triumph of the revolution when it lost its interests, the United States did what it always does, make propaganda, not only propaganda but counterrevolutionary aggressions. Training camps for counterrevolutionaries with Yankee, Chinese and Pakistani advisers have been set up around our country. The bandits penetrate our territory to murder innocent people, children, teachers, physicians. They burn schools, destroy hospitals.

In the face of such incursions, Afghanistan, using its privileges of a sovereign nation and in accordance with the treaty signed with the Soviet Union, requested the presence of a limited-size contingent of Soviet soldiers to help repulse the foreign aggression. This is in harmony with the UN Charter, the Afghan diplomat stressed. That is why there is a limited-size Soviet contingent in Afghanistan and it will remain there until all aggressions cease. If those aggressions were to cease today, the Soviet troops would withdraw tomorrow. But, as long as the aggressions continue, those soldiers will remain in our country.

The Afghan diplomat noted that his government has made two proposals -- one in 1980 and another in 1981 -- to neighboring countries which are using their territories as bases for the counterrevolution. In these proposals, Afghanistan outlined its readiness to engage in conversations to solve the region's problem and the so-called Afghan issue, the diplomat stated. In these conversations we could talk about when the limited-size Soviet contingent would withdraw, but those soldiers will remain in our country until aggressions cease and we have received international guarantees that they will not be repeated.

SUCSESSES AGAINST 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARIES' NOTED

GF041350 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Apr 82

[Text] The security forces, (?groups of revolution defenders), with the honest cooperation of the toilers of the country, have recently crushed a number of counterrevolutionaries in a number of provinces.

According to reports dispatched by the security forces of the provinces, a group of (?11) killers in [name indistinct] (?village) in the (Torababa) subdistrict and another two groups in [name indistinct] village of (?Hatkamina) District and La'l Purah subdistrict in Shinwar District were liquidated, and more than 18 assorted weapons, including a few (?missile launchers) were also seized. Similarly, Farah Province's operations (?battalion) has liquidated a number of these criminals in [name indistinct] village of [word indistinct] and another group of them led by Seyyed 'Abdollah in [name indistinct] village of Ghazni Province.

According to another report from Herat Province, La'l Mohammad, son of Sofi Tajoddin, resident of Owbeh District of Herat Province, and another person, who were distributing counterrevolutionary propaganda leaflets in that district and in Badghisat Province's capital and villages, were arrested. The propaganda leaflets were confiscated by the security forces and are being studied.

AFP CITES SOURCES ON AFGHAN REBELS REGROUPING

BK061246 Hong Kong AFP in English 1210 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Text] New Delhi, 6 Apr (AFP) -- Moslem insurgents fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan Government had begun re-grouping in the Paghman Mountain range, about 15 km (nine miles) north-west of Kabul, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

Paghman, a former hill resort of Afghan kings, was the scene of fierce fighting between the rebels and the Soviet-aided Afghan Army last year.

The sources here said the insurgents were returning in strength in Paghman with improved weather conditions, but there was no independent confirmation of the reports.

The sources gave details of rebel activities in war-torn Afghanistan, but the reports were sketchy and lacked substance.

They spoke of assassinations of pro-regime elements by the rebels in the Afghan capital.

The reports said the principal of the commercial high school in Kabul was reportedly shot and killed by insurgents on April one and the same day a renowned pro-regime religious leader was assassinated in broad daylight in the Taimani District of the city. Two military personnel, believed to be Afghans, were also reportedly shot dead by the rebels the previous day.

The rebels also reportedly rocketted the Chel Setoun Palace in the southern part of the city, which houses an army unit. A contingent of Soviet advisors had left the palace just before the rebel attack, the sources indicated.

The insurgents were also said to have attacked the Dar-ul-Aman District headquarters and inflicted unspecified damage on government property.

The sources said the rebels were able to move freely in the areas between the city and the Karga Lake, about 10 km (six miles) from Kabul.

Fighting has resumed in Qandahar -- the scene of fierce battle in January-February, the sources said adding that the 20-km (12 miles) road linking the city with the airport was no longer safe. The Afghan Government has, however, denied reports of fighting in Qandahar.

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS WITH ERSHAD

BK021253 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 2 Apr 82

[Text] The Indian high commissioner in Dacca, Muchkund Dubey, had a 35-minute meeting with the chief martial law administrator of Bangladesh, Lt Gen H.M. Ershad, this morning.

The All-India Radio Dacca correspondent understands that Dubey expressed the hope that the progress made toward resolving the bilateral issues would be carried forward.

General Ershad expressed the Bangladesh Government's desire to settle the bilateral issues to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

Earlier, the Indian high commissioner called on the Bangladesh foreign secretary. The question of finalizing the dates of External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to Dacca was discussed.

DELEGATION TO ATTEND AID TALKS IN PARIS

BK051006 Hong Kong AFP in English 0740 GMT 4 Apr 82

[By Gola M. Tahaboor]

[Text] Dacca, 4 Apr (AFP) -- A ten-member Bangladesh delegation led by an advisor in General Ershad's new military government will attend the three-day meeting of the aid consortium beginning in Paris on April 20 to consider Dacca's foreign aid requirement for the next fiscal year beginning July.

The leader of the delegation, A. M. A. Muhith, who was appointed last week as advisor on planning and finance by the chief martial law administrator, General Ershad, is expected to leave Dacca on April 10.

General Ershad, 52, who overthrew the government of Justice Abdus Sattar on March 24 on charges of corruption and inefficiency, later told foreign correspondents that he would send a high-level team to Paris to negotiate for the country's badly needed foreign assistance before the aid club members.

He also expressed confidence that the change of government in Dacca would not affect the aid flow to Bangladesh and he hoped that the circumstances which compelled his armed forces to take power last month would be understood by the donors.

Mr. Muhith, who retired a few months ago as a senior civil servant with long experience in economic matters, has been assigned the Ministries of Finance and Planning, which are now reportedly busy preparing papers for the Paris meeting.

In addition to the members of the aid Bangladesh consortium the meeting is expected to be attended by observers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the OPEC Fund and UNCTAD.

According to earlier indications, Bangladesh is to seek about 2.3 billion U.S. dollars for fiscal 1982-83 at the Paris meeting, of which 1,300 million will be for project assistance, 800 million for commodity assistance and 500 million for food assistance.

Bangladesh received a total aid commitment of 2.1 billion dollars for this year from the World Bank-sponsored aid-consortium as against its demand for about 2.6 billion dollars.

Of this commitment it is expected that only 1.6 billion dollars, about one million dollar less than the committed amount, will be handed out by June.

NEGOTIATIONS CALLED FOR IN FALKLAND DISPUTE

BK050155 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 4 Apr 82

[Excerpt] India has appealed to Britain and Argentina to desist from use of force in resolving the Falkland issue. It has requested the governments of these countries to return to the process of negotiations so that a peaceful solution to this problem can be worked out. In a statement, India has expressed its distress at the deterioration of relations between the two countries and regretted that Argentina has used force to resolve what is essentially a political problem.

India stands by the New Delhi declaration of the meeting of the foreign ministers of non-aligned countries held in February last year. The declaration has stated that the negotiations between Britain and Argentina should be expedited to resolve the issue.

PAKISTANI PRESS CITED ON KASHMIR, MARTIAL LAW

BK021527 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Mar 82 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, 28 Mar -- (UNI) A Pakistani weekly has brought out the irrelevance of holding a plebiscite in Kashmir in accordance with the UN resolution three decades ago.

An article published by AKHBAR-E-JAHAN in its March 8-14 issue says that it should be borne in mind that on both sides of Kashmir, a new generation exists which might not opt for either India or Pakistan if at all the often-repeated plebiscite were to be held. The new generation on the Indian side has been brought up in an atmosphere of secularism and democracy and, therefore, has no interest in religion or rhetoric. It says there is absolutely no motive for them to force their leaders to change the status quo.

The article, written by Mr Habibur Rahman, says that a small independent state of Kashmir will be an open invitation to a super-power which will be too eager to grab it due to its geographical and other allurements. "We have already tasted the presence of a super-power in Afghanistan," it added.

The article says "all that we can do now is to make our side of Kashmir a sort of a model state so that it could act as an incentive to people on the other side of the border to [word indistinct] and unite with this side". It regrets that Pakistan had hardly done anything in this direction.

The Pakistani newspaper AMAN has severely criticised the continuance of martial law in the country in its March 23 issue. In his column, Juma Khan says a mere comparison of the strides India has made in fields of science, industry and arms manufacturing would show the tremendous gains that have accrued to India under the umbrella of continuous democratic governments and how much Pakistan had lost and suffered due to martial law.

He says India had fought a war with China and two with Pakistan and had witnessed many political tempests but not once martial law was imposed there. Recalling that Pakistan was created not because Islam was in danger but for political and economic reasons, Juma Khan says in today's Pakistan Muslims have been deprived of their political rights and were unhappy with the government's economic policies.

The columnist goes on to say that just as a good politician cannot be an expert on defence matters, a good army general cannot be a good politician. He cites the instance of Pakistan breaking into two when the rulers sought a military solution of the problems. Juma Khan says that if martial law could serve as panacea for all ills, there would have been no political government or elections but martial law all over the world.

HAQ: CENSORSHIP ONLY FOR 'IRRESPONSIBLE' PAPERS

GF061950 Lahore JANG in Urdu 31 Mar 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Karachi, 30 Mar (APP/PPA) -- President General Ziaul Haq has said that the present press censorship is only meant for irresponsible papers. There is no censorship for responsible papers; nor is there any intention of imposing additional restrictions over them in the future.

The president was speaking at a dinner given by the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) in Karachi on 30 March.

He said: The present position is such that responsible papers can write what they like. They criticize the government and the administration and we will continue to tolerate it without displeasure. In fact, constructive criticism is essential to correct administration.

However, some papers, instead of criticizing the government, resort to mud-slinging. But even at that we have never expressed displeasure.

The president said that probably the president of APNS has mentioned the subject of censorship and freedom of the press out of professional necessity.

General Ziaul Haq said: I believe that newspapers should adopt a responsible attitude on their own. He said that newspapers play an important role in the education and grooming of society. They should try to guide the people and help them choose the right path.

The president gave the assurance that the government will provide all cooperation to the growth of healthy and responsible journalism in the country. He said that he has no intention of putting curbs on the newspapers and that he welcomes healthy and good criticism.

President Ziaul Haq said that journalists cannot alienate themselves from the society in which they live. He said that despite widespread illiteracy in the country, the newspapers exert a deep influence over the society and this influence was very pronounced compared to other influences. He added that the influence was more apparent in the villages than in the cities. He said many people read newspapers in the villages or hear them read by others. And in this way the newspapers, if they want, can help guide social trends.

The president said that he does not believe that the newspapers should only publish things that the readers would like to read but rather help teach the people what the newspapers would like to have taught to the people. This way newspapers can assume the role of a guide for the people and the country as a whole.

He said he was not against the freedom of press but he certainly wants journalism to play a responsible role within society.

The president expressed the belief that newspapers would project the ideas of Islamic values, national sovereignty and solidarity and discourage anti-Islamic trends. He called upon the newspapers to help the government project Islamic values, national sovereignty and solidarity.

The president said that his recent press conference in Lahore may have created fears that he was about to impose some new curbs on newspapers. He said this was a wrong impression.

He said in Lahore that he had just "turned the screw" a little bit, but in fact he had no intention of putting any more curbs on newspapers.

FOREIGN MINISTER CITES REGIONAL PEACE EFFORTS

BK061100 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan told the Majlis-i-Shoora [Federal Advisory Council] this morning that Pakistan's relations with all the big powers are good and [words indistinct] basis with its nonaligned policy and pursuance for peace, there was no probability of its being involved in nuclear confrontation. He was speaking on the admissibility of an adjournment motion by Zahurul Hassan Bhopali in which he had quoted a press report to the alleged statement by some American experts that the future nuclear war would take place in countries like Pakistan and Afghanistan instead of Europe or America.

The foreign minister described the report as speculative and a far-fetched conclusion. He emphasized that Pakistan's efforts for the cause of peace were well-known. We have moved in the United Nations for declaring South Asia as a nuclear-free zone and supported the idea of denuclearization of the Indian Ocean. We have also sought securities and guarantees for non-nuclear states against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons against them.

The foreign minister added Pakistan's efforts for peace in the region were well-known. We are trying for peaceful political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Pursuing a similar policy, Pakistan has taken the initiative for a no-war agreement with India, he added.

HABIB CHATTI ARRIVES IN ISLAMABAD 7 APR

BK070647 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Habib Chatti, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, who arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 3-day visit to Pakistan, has said that both Iran and Iraq have expressed readiness to welcome the Islamic peace committee mission with regard to efforts to bring about an end to the war between the two countries. He told newsmen he obtained this impression during his meetings with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq in Kuwait recently.

SIGNIFICANCE OF IRANIAN MINISTER'S VISIT VIEWED

GF061132 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Apr 82 p 7

[Editorial: "A Friendship Renewed"]

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister's visit to Pakistan should prove to be of great significance for the bilateral relations between the two countries, as well as for the new diplomatic equation which is emerging in the region. Dr Velayati's team was the first highpowered delegation to visit Pakistan after the revolution in Iran. The warmth and goodwill expressed by both sides on the occasion have confirmed that the two neighbours can be expected to continue to develop and consolidate their close ties which are based on common bonds of religion, culture, language and customs.

This is an important development, for soon after the Iranian revolution relations had been somewhat affected by misunderstandings that had cropped up between the two neighbours. That they are now determined to forge closer links with each other is evident from the cordial and friendly statements made by both sides during Dr Velayati's visit.

Moreover, the two governments have placed special emphasis on non-alignment, independence from the superpowers and Islamic solidarity as the common bases of their foreign policy. They have also stressed the need for adherence to the principle of non-interference in internal affairs as the basis for developing friendly relations between Muslim countries.

This understanding on the fundamental postulates of their foreign policies should help remove misgivings which might have existed and should contribute towards the further strengthening of political ties between Tehran and Islamabad. Of equal significance are the economic and cultural relations they are in the process of developing. The memorandum of understanding concluded by the two sides, which provides for enhanced trade and economic cooperation, should promote closer economic ties between them. Iran emerged as Pakistan's largest trading partner last year, but there is still scope for further expansion of the volume of trade between them. The significance of this renewed interest in expanding economic cooperation is not to be minimised. When the RCD became a dead letter following the change of government in Tehran, it was not clear for sometime what the level of bilateral economic cooperation would be between the two countries.

Dr Velayati's visit also needs to be seen in the context of the evolving Iranian foreign policy. Immediately after the revolution, the Islamic government in Tehran was naturally inward-looking and preoccupied with its domestic concerns. Although it had spelt out the broad principles of its foreign policy soon after assuming power, the Iranian Government has only now begun to formulate a coherent framework for its external relations.

The understanding it has now reached with Pakistan has farreaching implications for the geopolitical situation in South West Asia. As the joint statement issued on Friday indicates, their views on the Gulf war are not similar and it is understandable that Pakistan, as a member of the OIC [Islamic Conference Organization] peace committee, should wish to adopt a nonpartisan position.

But on Afghanistan the two governments have an identical stand. They uphold the principles enunciated by the OIC as the bases of any settlement of the Afghan crisis. Thus, both Iran and Pakistan have called for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, the creation of conditions in that country acceptable to the Afghan people and the right of the refugees to go back home in safety and with honor.

This expression of consensus on Afghanistan is most timely. Next week, Mr Cordovez, the UN secretary-general's special representative, will be visiting Islamabad, Kabul and Tehran. The meeting of minds between Iran and Pakistan should give more weight to their demand for a Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan. It should, hopefully, also help them evolve the modalities for negotiations for a peace settlement on Afghanistan.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE LOAN ACCORDS -- Pakistan and Japan have signed three agreements in Tokyo for a loan of more than 24 billion yen which includes a loan of 9.9 billion for purchase of commodities and acquisition of experts' service. The two other loans, worth 14.2 billion yen, will be utilized for the expansion of Quetta power station and for the expansion program of a 500-kilowatt transmission line in Faisalabad, Multan and Guddu. [Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 2 Apr 82 BK]

FRG LOAN -- Islamabad, March 17 -- The Governments of Pakistan and Federal Republic of Germany signed here on Wednesday a memorandum of understanding on bilateral financial cooperation during the year 1982. Under the memorandum, the German Government will provide to Pakistan assistance amounting Dm 130 million (about Rs 556 million) during 1982-83. The loan will be repayable in 55 years, including a grace period of ten years, and will carry 0.75 per cent interest per annum. In addition, Germany will provide Dm 24 million (Rs 102 million) as grant for technical assistance schemes. [Karachi DAWN in English 18 Mar 82 p 1 GF]

AFP: SOVIET AIRCRAFT BOMB IRANIAN BORDER TOWN

OW071111 Hong Kong AFP in English 1100 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, April 7 (AFP) -- Soviet planes bombarded the Iranian town of Hormak, near the border with Afghanistan, early Monday, injuring several Iranian police, Afghan sources said here today.

An official Iranian source confirmed the incident but refused further comment.

Soviet planes launched an offensive in the region around Robat-e Thand, where the Pakistani, Afghan and Iranian borders meet, on Sunday, said officials in Iran of the Afghan organizations Hezb-e Eslami and the Islamic Association of Afghanistan.

Overnight from Sunday to Monday, the planes bombed Hormak, which lies on the road from Zabol to Zahedan and is 60 kms (37.2 miles) north of Zahedan, in the Iranian region of Sistan va Baluchestan.

An Iranian police station was hit and several police hurt, the Afghan sources said.

The sources added that Soviet planes bombed Monday throughout the sector in Afghanistan around Robat-e Thand, killing more than 100 people. Helicopters then mined the region and several Afghan rebels coming to help victims were wounded or killed by mines.

KHAMENE'I, SOVIET ENVOY SPEAK ON RELATIONS

LD071114 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Mr Vladimir Vinogradov, the USSR ambassador whose tour of duty in Iran has come to an end, this morning met President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to bid him farewell. At this meeting, the Soviet ambassador first described relations between the two countries and, referring to the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, noted: I found the Iranian nation to be a dynamic and energetic nation which has risen for a new life. One of the greatest and most valuable achievements of your revolution is that this nation has risen for a conscious life.

In reply to the Soviet ambassador's remarks, the president then stated: You have had the opportunity to see at close quarters one of the greatest revolutions of contemporary history, the Iranian Islamic revolution. This is extremely valuable for you in terms of your political recollection and the impact you will have with your government. You were here from the inception of the revolution and observed the good will of our nation, government and leadership. You well realized that the policy of the Iranian Islamic Republic Government is based on friendship with the governments who have no aggressive intentions, particularly our neighboring countries. We have always wanted our relations with neighbors to be fair and healthy. We hope that on your return from Iran you will strive to see that your government emulates the peaceful behavior of our government and nation.

At the end of the meeting, during which bilateral matters were also discussed, the USSR ambassador wished our country's president health and success.

RAFSANJANI RECEIVES OUTGOING SOVIET AMBASSADOR

LD061700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Excerpt] According to the Central News Unit, the ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Islamic Republic of Iran, whose term of office has come to an end, this evening met with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly. During the meeting, the Soviet ambassador, while saying goodbye, informed the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of his activities during his term of office in Iran.

ANNIVERSARY OF SEVERANCE OF U.S. TIES MARKED

GF061907 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Text] April 8 is the anniversary of the severance of relations between Iran and the United States. On this occasion the employees of the Voice and Vision of Iran, Shiraz center, congratulate the oppressed of the world, the imam of the nation, the great Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the entire martyr-nurturing nation of Iran.

On the eve of the anniversary of April 8, let us recall that the slogan "Death to America" must not be forgotten and must continue to be upheld in the hope that the banner of Islam will be unfurled over all the tyrannical nations of the world and will (?give glory) to all the oppressed and downtrodden peoples of the world.

COMMANDER REPORTS IRANIAN NAVAL SUPERIORITY

LD061740 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Text] Rasht, 6 Apr (IRNA) -- Navy Commander Captain Afzali said in Anzali Port, northern Iran, today that the Iraqi Navy had been destroyed 80 percent during the 18-month-old imposed war. The commander further added that the Iraqi Navy was now too weak to show itself and he added that in fact there had been nothing left of the Iraqi naval force.

Expressing the hope that an Islamic government would soon come into power in Iraq, the Iranian Navy commander avowed "we will not retreat and will continue the battle by all means, until ultimate victory is achieved."

Captain Afzali remarked that the official policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was based on non-interference in the affairs of other countries, and he added that Iran, having vast lands and endless underground resources, had no expansionist ambitions but instead it only requested the countries of the region to rely on themselves and to be confident that foreigners never sought the interests of their peoples and states.

The captain stressed that it was the duty of the navy to defend the marine borders of the country, to keep the sea open for free shipping and to maintain its sovereignty on the naval scene, and he further asserted that "this is a step which we have so far taken successfully and will continue to do so in the future."

The navy commander went on to say that in the past Iran had to import all the spare parts of vessels from abroad or to repair them abroad. Nonetheless, he added, "presently, we are manufacturing some spare parts inside the country." He also said that after the culmination of the Islamic revolution, Iranian devoted experts succeeded in operating the gas turbine repair shop in Bandar-e 'Abbas, southern Iran, as well as activating a number of large factories in this region.

Mr Afzali stated that all the technical training centres of the navy were actively working and that for the first time in the history of the Iranian Navy, students for a naval officers college were being accepted. He also said that another college for the "navy staff and command" would soon be established in the country in an attempt to reach cultural [as received] self-sufficiency.

Referring to the formation of the Rapid Deployment Force, Captain Afzali pointed out that the United States, by forming this force, aimed at frightening the revolutionary Muslim people and to cripple the Islamic Republic of Iran. Nevertheless, said Captain Afzali, the U.S. and its servants should not forget that "they cannot do a damn thing."

MUSAVI ADDRESSES OFFICERS ON PEACE PROSPECTS

LD071126 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Apr 82

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, the graduation ceremonies for the ground forces officers' academy was held this morning, beginning with the recital of verses from the Koran. Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi and Defense Minister Colonel Salimi attended.

In a speech, the prime minister said: One of the biggest blessings our nation enjoys is that our soldiers, youths and ordinary people have put on their battle dress to defend right, divine standards and human honor. This has become an (?ambition) in our society.

Mr Musavi went on to explain the plots by the superpowers against the Islamic revolution of Iran and the plans of the enemies of Islam. He said: They all thought that with all the problems and plots, the revolution could not succeed. But, by relying on divine standards and the unlimited strength of the risen people, for the sake of God and under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, not only was our revolution able to overcome the military plots of blasphemous powers inside the country, but with that same strong faith and with the support of the ever-present people it was able to decisively defeat the enemies.

Addressing those countries that are holding talks with Iranian officials regarding peace between Iran and Iraq, Mr Musavi said: If you wish for peace and tranquility in the region, you should exert pressure on Saddam's regime; even if you do not, that regime will collapse. It is a fact that our Islamic revolution has been intertwined with divine strength [as heard]. They should know that without receiving compensation, without the condemnation of the aggressor and without the ousting of the last aggressive soldier, our nation will not take one step backward. That is what the nation has avowed to its God, its offspring and its soldiers.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 847

LD061716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Communique 847 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. We hereby announce some of the operations and efforts by the mighty combatants of Islam aimed at crushing and weakening the aggressive enemy on the battlefronts during the past 24 hours, for the information of the Muslim, combatant people of Iran:

Yesterday the exchange of fire continued on most fronts in the southern and western parts of the country.

In the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region, as a result of artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions, one enemy mortar and one observation post of the aggressors were destroyed, several enemy artillery positions were damaged and quantities of ammunition were set ablaze.

In the Gilan-e Gharb region, our artillery units, opening fire on enemy concentrations, destroyed a Saddamist tank and 5 vehicles and killed at least 35 of their servicemen.

In the Sumar region, as a result of fire by our forces on enemy tank and mortar positions, one tank of the aggressor forces was put out of action and several supply points of the Saddamist forces were destroyed.

Exchange of fire in the Abadan region continued and, thanks to retaliatory fire by our own forces, the movement of enemy vehicles on the Al-Faw-Basrah axis was prevented and 2 enemy squad trenches and 2 observation posts were utterly destroyed and more than 10 Iraqi troops were killed.

Yesterday, Abadan's residential regions became the target of heavy-weapon fire from Saddam's army and as a result several of our compatriots were wounded. In that region, thanks to fire by Islam's forces on enemy artillery and tank positions on the western bank of the Karun River, the aggressors suffered losses and casualties.

FINANCE MINISTER ON NEW TAX COLLECTION SCHEME

LD050448 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Apr 82

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, the minister of economy and finance, the Economy and Finance Ministry under secretary for internal revenue and directors of Tehran Province's Tax Department met to review the tax collectors' performance in the last year. The meeting also heard tax collectors and the Economy and Finance Ministry under secretary explain the difficulties in collecting taxes and offer suggestions in this regard.

The minister of economy and finance later spoke to our correspondent on new measures for the collection of taxes and on new tax relief. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Namazi, you and a number of your colleagues were received by Imam Khomeyni at the beginning of the new year. Following this meeting, which was also attended by the under secretary for internal revenue, new decisions were made concerning the collection of taxes. Would you be good enough to tell us what these new decisions are?

[Answer] The imam reiterated that the burden of taxes should not be on the middle class and on those with low incomes. At the same time the Economy and Finance Ministry decided to increase the tax allowances for civil servants and other employees from 30,000 rials to 40,000 rials per month and for the self-employed, from 12,000 rials to 40,000 rials per month. A bill concerning these new allowances has been approved by the Cabinet and presented to the Majlis, and we hope it will receive the Majlis' approval. We have no reason to assume it will not.

The other issue that we discussed with Imam Khomeyni was the question of fines for nonpayment of taxes. We decided to allow the tax collector to make an allowance of 200,000 rials, and of 50 percent above that amount. The rest must be paid.

[Question] No doubt these allowances are only in relation to the fines, not to the tax itself.

[Answer] That is correct. Neither the Ministry of Economy and Finance nor the government is in a position to abolish taxation, and the decision only concerns fines levied for the nonpayment of taxes.

[Question] There is a provision in this year's budget that would necessitate the collection of 680.22 billion rials in taxes. Won't the new allowances reduce the government's revenue from taxes?

[Answer] Of course, it may look that way, but in fact the people will be encouraged to pay their taxes, and this can and will have a positive effect.

[Question] Have you been able to collect the amount of tax that you had forecast in the budget last year?

[Answer] Yes, we did collect the amount we had planned, and even more.

[Question] Toward the end of last year you presented a bill to the Majlis concerning real estate. Could you possibly explain this bill?

[Answer] The idea behind the bill is to collect additional taxes from those people who have more property and more wealth, the same way that the people with less income and less wealth will pay less tax. The idea is not to leave the tax burden on the middle class and on the poorly paid. Accordingly, the tax allowance in this bill for a family of four has been set at 10 million rials and, for a family of five, at 12.5 million rials. The allowance for a family of six and above will be prorated on a base of 10.5 million rials [as heard].

[Question] That means that if the value of the real estate of the last group is above 10.5 million rials, it will be taxed on a progressive scale?

[Answer] Yes, that is correct. The bill is in the Majlis, and we hope it will be ratified.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

STATE PROSECUTOR ISSUES DIRECTIVE ON AMNESTY

GF051259 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Mar 82 p 11

[Excerpt] The president of the Supreme Court has asked all Islamic revolution courts and prosecutors' offices in the country not to take measures to release prisoners directly or they will be held responsible.

Taking into account the amnesty decree issued by the imam for those prisoners whose release is legally without any hindrance and the procedures and directives of the Supreme Judicial Council in this respect, and similarly the willful and devious attitudes of some of the judicial and court authorities, a circular has been issued by Mr Musavi-Ardabili addressed to the Islamic revolution courts and prosecutors' offices of the country and a copy sent to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

PRISONERS PARDONED, RELEASED IN PROVINCES

172 in West Azarbayjan

LD051020 Tehran IRNA in English 0932 GMT 5 Apr 82

[Text] Tehran, 5 Apr (IRNA) -- Some 172 prisoners of Islamic revolutionary courts, pardoned following the Imam Khomeyni's recent guidelines, were released from jail in Urumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Province, Sunday.

Previously, 145 more prisoners of the justice courts in Urumiyeh had been pardoned and released from prison.

888 in Mashhad

LD061734 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Apr 82

[Text] According to an IRNA dispatch, 888 persons convicted by Mashhad's Islamic Revolution Court have been pardoned and released from jail.

Mashhad's public prosecutor's office announced that 422 of them were active members or supporters of the hypocrites organization, Peykar, the minority wing of the Feda'iyane Khalq and other dissident terrorist minigroups.

Another 337 were active drug peddlers and addicts, and the rest were active counterrevolutionaries, supporters of the defunct Pahlavi regime, collaborators of the defunct SAVAK, those guilty of the sale and possession of illegal weapons, of inflicting bodily harm and of carrying out robberies.

According to this dispatch, 316 persons convicted by Bakhtaran's Islamic Revolution Court were also pardoned by Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

188 in Kerman

LD051316 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 5 Apr 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that following a decree issued by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, regarding the speedy investigation of files of those detained, and also following the imam of the nation's amnesty decree, the first group of 188 pardoned prisoners were released last night after a ceremony at the rehabilitation center of the Kerman police station.

480 in Tabriz

LD052012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Apr 82

[Text] According to IRNA, on the occasion of 1 April, the anniversary of the Islamic Republic, 480 prisoners in Tabriz have been granted the imam's reprieve.

The report says that of these 180 have been released during the past 2 days and the remaining prisoner's sentences have been reduced to 15 years for those sentenced to life and by between half and two-thirds for those serving sentences of 15 years and less.

The Hamadan Islamic Revolution Court has also announced, according to IRNA, that, following the imam of the nation's decree regarding an investigation into the situation of the convicts by the Islamic revolution courts and the reprieve and amnesty for eligible convicts, 281 convicted by the Hamadan Islamic Revolution Court have been granted the imam's reprieve. Of these 150 have been released and the terms of imprisonment of the remainder have been substantially reduced.

In addition, 8 people from Bijar, 18 from Tuoyserkan, 79 from Nahavand and 54 from [word indistinct] have also been granted the imam's reprieve.

Some 11 people were also released by the Marivan Islamic Revolution Court this morning as beneficiaries of the imam's reprieve.

BRIEFS

ARREST OF SMUGGLERS -- About 100 persons who were trying to smuggle foreign exchange out of the country were arrested by Bushehr customs officials, and some of them are now in prison. Three hundred video-cassette recorders imported illegally by the smugglers were also confiscated. [Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Mar 82 p 4 GF]